

STATE OF NEVADA

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December 28, 2010

Dear Patient Safety Officer/Sentinel Event Reporter,

In accordance with NAC 439.915(4) as modified by regulation [R044-10](#) adopted by the Board of Health on October 15, 2010, the Office of Epidemiology has revised the categories used to classify sentinel events to conform to the list of 'serious reportable events' developed and maintained by the [National Quality Forum \(NQF\)](#); the most current list is available in the [2006 update](#) to the report, '[Serious Reportable Events in Healthcare](#)'. Four additional categories involving [healthcare-associated infection \(HAI\)](#) have also been added from the common formats developed and maintained by the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#), a partner of NQF; the most current list is available in [version 1.1](#). For other events not included in either list yet still qualifying as sentinel events under the criteria defined in [NRS 439.830](#), two final categories were included: 'HAI – other' and 'other'. The links provided above reference the definitions for each of the categories and offer guidance for how to appropriately classify a sentinel event.

With this announcement, the Office of Epidemiology is pleased to be bringing the categories used to classify sentinel events into alignment with national standards. The use of these categories and definitions will not only provide clearer guidance to you on how to report sentinel events but also allow interstate comparisons to be conducted.

Going forward, please begin reporting sentinel events that occur on or after January 1, 2011 on the revised part 1 form available at http://health.nv.gov/Sentinel_Forms_Reports.htm; please note that you will still need to use the preceding part 1 form for events that occur prior to January 1, 2011. Should you have any questions or need any assistance as we transition to the new categories, please [contact](#) the Sentinel Events Registry.

sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Kvam".

Jay Kvam, MSPH